federal register

Tuesday
March 10, 1992

Part IX

Department of Education

Projects With Industry; Final Priorities and Invitation for Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year 1992; Notices

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Projects With Industry

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of final priorities for fiscal year 1992.

SUMMARY: The Secretary announces priorities for fiscal year 1992 under the Projects With Industry (PWI) program. The Secretary takes this action to focus Federal financial assistance on areas of identified need under this program. These priorities are intended—(1) To increase the number of individuals with handicaps placed in occupations that meet current and future employment trends and labor market needs; and (2) To improve the wage-earning power of individuals with handicaps.

EFFECTIVE DATE: These priorities take effect either 45 days after publication in the **Federal Register** or later if the Congress takes certain adjournments. If you want to know the effective date of these priorities, call or write the Department of Education contact person.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Finch, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3326 Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202–2649. Telephone: (202) 732–1347. Deaf and hearing impaired individuals may call the Federal Dual Party Relay Service at 1–800–877–8339 (in the Washington, DC 202 area code, telephone 708–9300) between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., Eastern time.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Grants under the Projects With Industry program are authorized by Title IV, section 621, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The purposes of this program are to provide grants to promote opportunities for competitive employment of individuals with handicaps, to provide appropriate placement resources, to engage the talent and leadership of private industry as partners in the rehabilitation process, to create practical settings for job readiness and training programs, and to secure the participation of private industry in identifying and providing job opportunities and the necessary skills and training to qualify individuals with handicaps for competitive employment.

The Secretary has selected two priorities for fiscal year 1992 under the PWI program. The first priority seeks to increase the number of trained individuals with handicaps placed in occupations that reflect current and future employment trends and labor market needs. The second priority seeks to fund projects that will train and place individuals with handicaps into competitive employment in positions above the entry level or in positions that have promotion potential. Projects funded under the Projects With Industry program have demonstrated that full-time entry level employment for individuals with handicaps is possible. However, many of these projects have been unable to place individuals into competitive jobs that pay more than the minimum wage or have promotion potential. The Secretary is interested in funding projects that place individuals with handicaps in jobs above the entry level or in "career ladder" positions that will lead to better paying jubs in the same occupational category. In addition, these final priorities support AMERICA 2000, the President's strategy for helping the nation to move toward achievement of the National Education Goals. By emphasizing training that will lead to more competitive employment opportunities for individuals with handicaps, these priorities directly support national education goal five that calls for every adult American to possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Funds have not yet been appropriated for fiscal year 1992 for the PWI program.

On August 16, 1991 the Secretary published a notice of proposed priorities for this program in the **Federal Register** (56 FR 41044).

Note: This notice of final priorities does not solicit applications. A notice inviting applications under these competitions is published in a separate notice in this issue of the **Federal Register.**

Analysis of Comments and Changes

In response to the Secretary's invitation in the notice of proposed priorities, 11 parties submitted comments. An analysis of the comments follows.

General Comments—Comments Applying to More Than One Priority

Comments: Two commenters recommended no new priorities be established for 1992. Instead, the commenters suggested that the highest ranked unfunded applications under each of the 1991 priorities be funded in 1992. One of these commenters also stated that the two new priorities identify needs that have already been recognized by most PWIs, are adequately addressed in the PWI standards and indicators, and might limit the flexibility of the PWI program.

Discussion: The priorities for 1992 reflect the Secretary's concern that new projects under this program advance the goals of the Department's AMERICA 2000 education strategy by providing for training and placement in jobs that meet labor market needs and that offer career opportunities rather than in entry-level positions without potential for advancement. Although these two priorities are different from the 1991 priorities, there are many common requirements. Thus, unsuccessful 1991 applicants can resubmit their 1991 applications, modified as necessary to meet all of the 1992 requirements.

PWI indicators do address changes in earnings, and the Secretary recognizes that many thousands of individuals have been placed by PWIs into well-paying jobs with promotion potential. The two priorities give emphasis to the continued need for these types of placements and will not overly limit progrm flexibility.

Changes: None.

Comments: One commenter supported both priorities, but suggested establishing a priority to allow the development of model approaches to providing vocational and educational preparation services to youth in basic skills needed for employment.

Discussion: The Secretary agrees that vocational and educational preparation services are very important. An applicant under the 1992 priorities may include training for basic educational skills that will complement the services to be provided.

Changes: None.

Priority 1—Projects To Increase Placements in Occupations That Reflect Current and Future Employment Trends and Labor Market Needs

Comments: One commenter cited statistics from the 1991 U.S. Industrial Outlook to show that the 20 occupations that are growing faster than average require skills that cannot be provided by on-the-job training by PWI projects. The commenter also cited the Occupational Outlook Quarterly, U.S. Department of Labor, to show that of the 20 occupations expected to provide about 40 percent of all new jobs, only a few of them can be learned through on-the-job training and these jobs are generally low-paying and frequently lack benefits. The commenter suggested that the priority would lead to supported employment with financial reimbursement to employers, rather than emphasizing occupational skills training, an active business advisory council, and placement. The commenter stated that sufficient funding exists for programs that provide on-the-job training.

Discussion: The Secretary agrees that on-the-job training alone may not provide sufficient skills training for many high demand occupations. The

intent of the proposed priority was to ensure that occupational skills training include training at the actual worksite, and not to restrict the skills training to on-the-job training. The Secretary believes that the priority needs clarification on this issue.

The Secretary also notes that the priority requires training and placement in high demand occupations addressing labor market needs in the specific geographic area served by the project, rather than broad national trends. This will ensure that local employer needs are met and that positions for which training is provided will be available.

Changes: The priority has been modified to clarify that the requirement for job skills training encompasses more than on-the-job training.

Priority 2—Projects To Increase the Wage-Earning Potential of Individuals With Handicaps

Comments: One commenter was concerned that under this priority increases in wage-earning power would be measured on a national standard. The commenter was concerned that projects from low wage areas would be penalized and suggested that earning power be evaluated on regional, State, or local norms.

Discussion: The priority states that projects must determine employer policies on salaries, promotion, and advancement. This will ensure that local conditions are recognized.

Changes: None.

Comments: One commenter, who supported Priority 1, suggested that Priority 2 would result in emphasizing PWI support for individuals with lesser disabilities; i.e., that persons with very significant disabilities, including severe intellectual disabilities, would be barred from PWI projects funded through this priority. The commenter recommended that the priority be amended to include individuals with very significant disabilities, or that a new priority be added.

Discussion: This priority emphasizes the need to train and place persons who have completed their secondary education in positions that offer salaries above the minimum wage or in career ladder positions. The compliance indicators for PWI mandate that a minimum percentage of individuals with severe handicaps be served and placed in employment. The Secretary does not believe that persons with very significant disabilities would be precluded from participating in PWI projects funded under this priority since an individual can be placed into an entry-level position if there is the potential for career development and advancement. Further, the Secretary believes that there is not necessarily a correlation between presence of a significant disability and an inability to work in jobs above entry-level positions.

Changes: None.

Priorities

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet one of the following priorities. The Secretary funds under these competitions only applications that meet one of these absolute priorities:

Priority 1—Projects To Increase Placements in Occupations That Reflect Current and Future Employment Trends and Labor Market Needs

Projects under this priority must provide individuals with handicaps with training in specific skills for occupations that respond to current and future employment trends and labor market needs and that lead to job placements at multiple worksites. Job skills training must include training at worksites where individuals with handicaps are expected to be subsequently employed, rather than training at simulated worksites, and training must be integrated into any existing skills training programs provided by the business or industry.

A project must direct training and placement activities to existing or projected employment needs in the area served by the project. The project must determine that the occupations for which individuals are trained and placed are or will be in demand in the area to be served and must also determine and provide the training and job skills needed for those occupations.

Projects must consult with the State Employment Security Office, conduct independent surveys, or use data from exiting surveys and statistics of local businesses to determine the occupations in demand in the project area. In addition, projects must secure information from local businesses and industry, the Dictionary of Occupational Titles, or existing studies to determine the training and job skills needed for those occupations.

Projects under this priority may be local, State, multi-State, or national in scope.

In order to maximize the benefits of the Projects With Industry program to individuals with handicaps and to the basic vocational rehabilitation services program, all projects must include cooperative planning with the State vocational rehabilitation agency or agencies in the State of the applicant.

Priority 2—Projects to Increase the Wage-Earning Potential of Individuals With Handicaps

Projects under this priority must train and place individuals with handicaps who have completed their secondary or postsecondary level education into competitive employment in positions above the entry level or in career ladder positions that have potential for promotion and will lead to better paying jobs in the same occupational category.

To ensure that individuals will be placed in these positions, a project must determine employer policies for promotion and advancement and identify the jobs to be obtained and the expected salary ranges. The project must consider the anticipated earnings of the individuals with handicaps to be served in order to meet the compliance indicator in 34 CFR 379.53(g).

In order to maximize the benefits of the Projects With Industry program to individuals with handicaps and to the basic vocational rehabilitation services program, all projects must include cooperative planning with the State vocational rehabilitation agency or agencies in the State of the applicant.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and regulations in 34 CFR part 79. The objective of the Executive order is to foster the intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism by relying on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

In accordance with the order, this document is intended to provide early notification of the Department's specific plans and actions for this program.

Applicable Program Regulations

34 CFR parts 369 and 379.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 795g.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.234, Projects With Industry)

Dated: March 5, 1992.

Lamar Alexander,

Secretary of Education.

[FR Doc. 92-5567 Filed 3-9-92; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

[CFDA No. 84.234]

Projects With Industry; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1992

Purpose of Program: To promote opportunities for competitive employment of individuals with

handicaps by engaging private industry as partners in training and placement. The Projects With Industry program advances AMERICA 2000, the President's strategy for helping the Nation move toward achievement of the National Education Goals. By emphasizing training that will lead to more competitive employment opportunities for individuals with handicaps, this program directly supports National Education Goal five that calls for every adult American to possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Eligible Applicants: Any designated State unit; industrial, business, or commercial enterprise; labor organization; employer; industrial or community trade association; rehabilitation facility; or other agency or organization with the capacity to arrange, coordinate, or conduct training and other employment programs and provide supportive services and assistance for individuals with handicaps in a realistic work setting.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 30, 1992.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: June 30, 1992.

Applications Available: March 16, 1992.

Available Funds: $900,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: $125,000–$175,000.

Awards are to be made in two priority areas. Specific information regarding the estimated size and number of awards for each priority appears in the chart in this notice.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85 and 86; and (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR parts 369 and 379.

Priorities: The priorities in the notice of final priorities for this program, as published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, apply to these competitions. In addition, these competitions are subject to a statutory requirement that mandates that, in making new awards under the Projects With Industry program, priority be given to applications that propose to provide services in geographic areas among the States that are currently unserved or underserved. In accordance with this requirement in section 621(i) of the Rehabilitation Act and 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i), the Secretary gives a competitive preference by awarding up to 10 points to applications that meet this geographic priority in a particularly effective way. These points are in addition to any points the application earns under the selection criteria for this program.

For Applications or Information Contact: Bruce Rose, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3332, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202–2649. To request an application call (202) 732–1347; to receive further information, call (202) 732–5829. Deaf and hearing impaired individuals may call the Federal Dual Party Relay Service on 1–800–877–8339 (in the Washington, DC 202 area code, telephone 708–9300) between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., Eastern time.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 795g.

Dated: March 5, 1992.

Robert R. Davila,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

PROJECTS WITH INDUSTRY

CFDA No.	Priority areas	Estimated average size of awards	Estimated No. of awards
84.234H	Projects to increase placements in occupations that reflect current and future employment trends and labor market needs	$150,000	3
84.234J	Projects to increase the wage-earning potential of individuals with handicaps	150,000	3

[FR Doc. 92–5568 Filed 3–9–92; 8:45 am]

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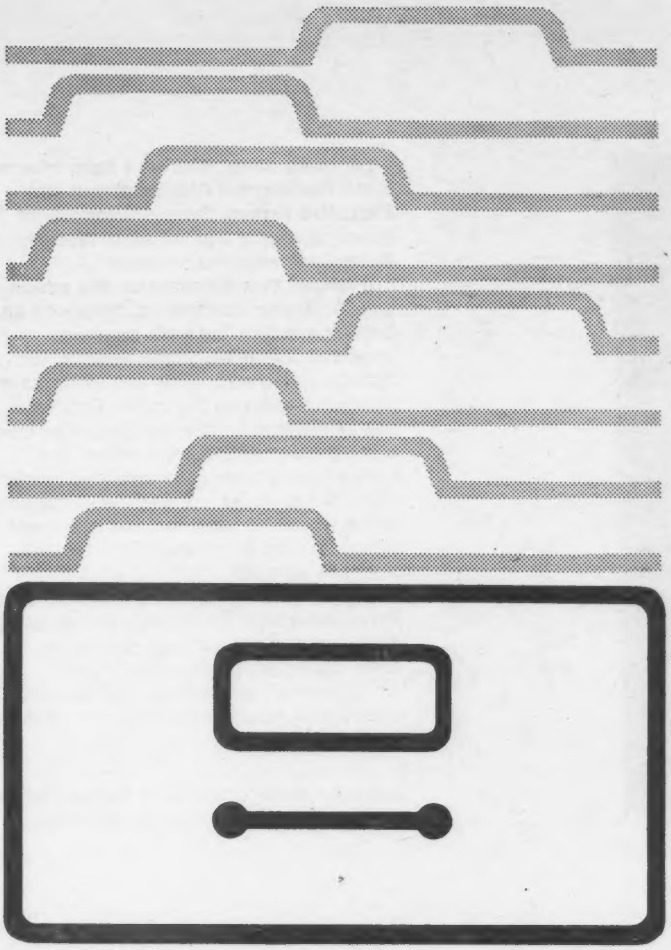

Guide to Record Retention Requirements

in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

GUIDE: Revised January 1, 1989
SUPPLEMENT: Revised January 1, 1991

The GUIDE and the SUPPLEMENT should be used together. This useful reference tool, compiled from agency regulations, is designed to assist anyone with Federal recordkeeping obligations.

The various abstracts in the GUIDE tell the user (1) what records must be kept, (2) who must keep them, and (3) how long they must be kept.

The GUIDE is formatted and numbered to parallel the CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS (CFR) for uniformity of citation and easy reference to the source document.

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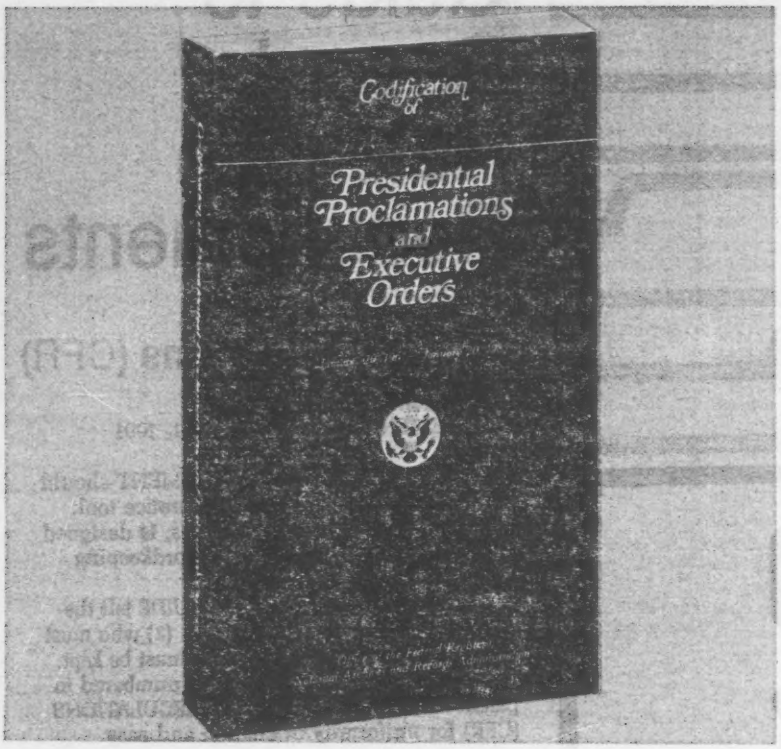

For those of you who must keep informed about **Presidential Proclamations and Executive Orders,** there is a convenient reference source that will make researching these documents much easier.

Arranged by subject matter, this edition of the *Codification* contains proclamations and Executive orders that were issued or amended during the period April 13, 1945, through January 20, 1989, and which have a continuing effect on the public. For those documents that have been affected by other proclamations or Executive orders, the codified text presents the amended version. Therefore, a reader can use the *Codification* to determine the latest text of a document without having to "reconstruct" it through extensive research.

Special features include a comprehensive index and a table listing each proclamation and Executive order issued during the 1945–1989 period—along with any amendments—an indication of its current status, and, where applicable, its location in this volume.

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